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## BKRA 'DZI THE RACE HORSE

'Jam dbyangs skyabs འཇམ་དབྱངས་སྐྱེ་བཤུགས།

When I was about ten years old (2003), my family had twelve horses - five females and seven males. Bkra 'dzi 'white stripes on the forehead' could run faster than all the other local horses and we were all very fond of him, especially my oldest brother.

We gave Bkra 'dzi the best food such as milk, wheat, barley, fresh grass, and fresh water.

Oldest Brother is very good at handicrafts and made reins, a bridle, girth, saddle cover, and other things for Bkra 'dzi. When Oldest Brother took Bkra 'dzi to race, he also made sure Bkra 'dzi was outfitted well.

In the winter when we grazed Bkra 'dzi in the mountains, Oldest Brother covered him with a blanket he had made himself.

Bkra 'dzi was not very gentle, but when Brother rode him, he was very gentle and obedient.

One cold, snowy day, Bkra 'dzi was on the mountains with the other horses. That day, Brother ignored Bkra 'dzi.

Time passed quickly. At dusk my youngest niece and I went to collect our horses. When we got near our them, my niece noticed that Bkra 'dzi was lying down.

I threw some pebbles at Bkra 'dzi, but he did not move.

"Bkra 'dzi is sleeping," my niece said and laughed, but I knew he was dead.

We immediately returned home and I told my sister-in-law. I did not tell Brother because I was afraid he would scold me.

The next morning, Brother got up earlier than usual, washed his face, brushed his teeth, and then got on his motorcycle and headed to the local monastery, which he reached about two hours

later. After arriving he found a very good diviner, Bla ma A khu dpal, and said, "Please, tell me what happened to Bkra 'dzi?"

A khu dpal said, "I know why your Bkra 'dzi died. It was to dispel an obstacle for you. Actually, Bkra 'dzi died for you."

My family invited a few monks to our home and they chanted scriptures for Bkra 'dzi.

We all continue to miss Bkar 'dzi and often talk about him because Bkra 'dzi was our benefactor owing to the many times he won horse races. We also thought Bkra 'dzi's was an incarnation of one of our family's progenitors.

#### NON-ENGLISH TERMS

'jam dbyangs skyabs འཇམ་དབྱངས་སྐྱེའམ།  
 a khu dpal ཨ་ཁུ་དཔལ།  
 bkra 'dzi བཀྲ་འདྲི།  
 khebs ma ཁེབས་མ།